

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 934

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH MEDIA REACTION TO HOUSE VOTE ON EMBARGO

1. THE HOUSE VOTE TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY CAME TOO LATE FOR FRIDAY MORNING (OCT. 3) EDITIONS OF MOST TURKISH DAILIES. HOWEVER, SOME OF THE LARGEST DAILIES, INCLUDING MILLIYET, CUNAYDIN, CUMHURIYET AND TERCUMAN, HELD THE PRESSES FOR THE STORY. MILLIYET, APPARENTLY HAVING KEPT A LINE OPEN TO WASHINGTON, CARRIED AN EXTENSIVE, STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF THE DEBATE AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT. EARLY MORNING TURKISH STATE RADIO BROADCASTS GAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE HOUSE ACTION TOP PLAY. VIRTUALLY ALL HEADLINES AND

LEADS EMPHASIZED THAT THE VOTE WAS FOR A "PARTIAL"
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO.

2. IN RELATED COVERAGE, CUMHURIYET GAVE FRONT PAGE HEAD-
LINE PLAY TO AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN SPEECH THURSDAY IN
GİRESUN BY PRIME MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMİREL IN WHICH HE
REPORTEDLY DECLARED: "WE ARE NOT THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE EMBARGO. BUT WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE WORKING TO LIFT IT."

3. THOUGH THE VOTE CAME LATE, PAPERS ON THE LEFT OF THE
TURKISH POLITICAL SPECTRUM, INCLUDING GUNAYDIN AND CUMHU-
RIYET, CARRIED EDITORIALS CONTEMPLATING THE LIFTING OF THE
EMBARGO. AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN GUNAYDIN COMMENTED ON THE POSSIBLE
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO: "THE AMERICANS HAVE IMPOSED AN
ARMS EMBARGO ON WEAPONS PROCURED AND PAID FOR IN THE
UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF TURKEY'S CYPRUS PEACE OPERATION.
THE MOVE OF THE AMERICANS WAS NOT ONLY A MEANS OF PRESSURE
POLITICALLY BUT ALSO AN ISSUE CONCERNING THE ETHICS OF
COMMERCE...ONCE AGAIN THEY ARE TO TAKE UP THE ISSUE....
THEY WANT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO...BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. THEY
BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A FAVOR. WHEN WE RECALL PRESIDENT
FORD'S REMARKS THAT 'THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO
INTERFERE IN OTHER COUNTRIES' DOMESTIC AFFAIRS,' THIS
ACTION (TO LIFT THE EMBARGO) IS NOT IN HARMONY WITH
TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. WE MAY CHOOSE TO IGNORE THIS.
BUT, THIS DEVELOPMENT IS PREJUDICIAL TO OUR PRESTIGE."

4. ALI SIRMEN IN CUMHURIYET COMMENTED ON THE EMBARGO: "THE
REASON WHY CONGRESS IS ADOPTING A MORE 'REASONABLE'
ATTITUDE ON THE...EMBARGO THIS TIME IS THAT BOTH NATO AND
THE UNITED STATES WISH TO HAVE A DEMİREL GOVERNMENT IN
TURKEY...AN EMBARGO IS ONLY APPLICABLE TO HOSTILE
NATIONS. THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO CAN ONLY BE
INTERPRETED AS A PARTIAL LESSENING OF AMERICAN HOSTILITY
TOWARDS TURKEY...SHOULD THE EMBARGO BE LIFTED PARTIALLY,
THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE UNITED STATES UNILATERALLY VIOLATED
EXISTING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES.
SINCE TURKEY HAS NOT BENEFITTED FROM ARTICLE 3 OF THE
NATO TREATY OF APRIL 4, 1949 WHICH PROVIDES FOR MUTUAL
AID TO MEMBER NATIONS, NOTHING WILL CHANGE IN TURKEY'S
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RELATIONS WITH NATO AND THE UNITED STATES."

5. AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN CUMHURIYET TALKED ABOUT
TURKEY'S DEFENSE SYSTEM AND ITS RELIANCE ON AMERICAN WEAPONS.
THE EDITORIAL SAID: "...FROM THE LOGISTICS AND IDEOLOGICAL
ANGLE A DEFENSE SYSTEM DEPENDENT ON THE UNITED STATES HAS
LOST ITS NATIONALISTIC CHARACTER...THIS MISTAKE WAS MADE
LONG AGO. WE ARE SUFFERING FROM THIS MISTAKE IN OUR

NATIONAL DEFENSE. WERE THE EMBARGO TO BE LIFTED NOT JUST
PARTIALLY BUT COMPLETELY, INSISTENCE ON THE SAME DEFENSE
ARRANGEMENT MIGHT RESULT IN MORE SERIOUS INCONVENIENCES IN
THE FUTURE."
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